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FOOD INFORMATION
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SUBJECT: Quotes on European Food Situation and Importance of Food.

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SUGGESTED USE: To be used as background material in press and radio channels and as appropriate fillers in speeches.

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A) Importance of Our Food to Our Friends:

OWI Press Release - "Tale of a City" - Feb. 14, 1943:

"Health: Warsaw today is dying out. Deprived of the necessary fats and vitamins, the population falls easy prey to disease. Exhaustion, hunger, and cold have forced many people to stay permanently in bed. In the first half of 1941, 8000 persons were born in Warsaw, but 21,800 died. In 1941, 9000 died of tuberculosis compared with less than 3000 in 1938. In the first 8 months of 1941, typhus took a toll of 5592 persons, compared to 23 in 1938. Children are malformed and ghostlike, suffering from anemia and softening of the bones."

"Food: Bread is about the only thing the Poles can count upon eating. This winter there may be no bread in Warsaw. Forty percent sawdust, the bread is dark and indigestible." Food cards, rarely received, theoretically entitle Poles to sub-subsistence amounts of a few items. 'Adults may not receive milk, and adult being anybody older than six months."

By John A. Farris, UP Correspondent - Dispatch from London, in The Washington News, Feb. 10, 1943:

"LONDON, Feb. 10 -- Pade the tankman, Yugoslav guerilla, slipped his slivovich and said grimly: 'You can't fight without guns and ammunition. You can't fight when you are hungry and freezing to death."

By Claude R. Wickard, "Food Is A Weapon", Jan. 31, 1943, THIS WEEK:

"The other day, I was told about a young British officer who arrived in this country from the Middle East. He had been with General Montgomery's army in the big advance which had sent Rommel reeling back across the desert. He was asked about the American tanks and planes. 'Oh, they were splendid,' he said. 'A tremendous help. But do you know, the biggest push you Americans gave me personally in that fight was a good mess of mashed potatoes."

".....You can't imagine how fed up you can get on Army biscuits and canned ration. Commonplace things that you used to take for granted become the stuff that dreams are made of."

So the night we got those mashed potatoes....well, I'll always believe that the advances we put on the next day, and the cutting off of a big detachment of Jerries, were directly the result of that good square meal. It made a man feel like fighting.

By Paul Manning-"Britain's Answers to Rationing", The Saturday Evening Post, Feb. 13, 1943.

"The food coupons issued to every civilian in England permit him to buy regularly the following weekly quota of rationed foods:

22 ¢ worth of meat	2 oz. of cooking fats
2 pts. of milk	2 oz. of tea
6 oz. of cheese	4 oz. of ham or bacon
2 oz. of butter	8 oz. of sugar
4 oz. of margarine	3 oz. of candy

He is also permitted to buy one egg a month, if he can find it."

Letters from Occupied Belgium -- "We Suffer in a Thousand Ways" published by Belgian Information Center, 630 Fifth Ave., New York:

A Priest Writes: ".... The food situation is serious, and in the cities people suffer real hardship. The other day, I watched a procession in Ghent - women and children carrying the black Famine Banner, and shouting, Bread! Bread!"

From a Businessman: "I put my large garden at the disposal of all the members of my staff, to enable them to grow vegetables for their families. But they cannot find the necessary seeds. Poor people, they will have to go hungry, after all.... It is strange how seeds automatically take the road to Germany, together with all the rest."

"Hunger Spreads Over Europe" - Fortune Magazine, January 1943:

"Imports from America and the Empire, accounting for roughly half their food calories, have done much to keep Britons fit and healthy. Russia has not been equally favored: When shipping shortages compelled Stalin to choose between wheat and weapons, he chose weapons.....

"In August and September, Muscovites got no meat or butter and it is doubtful that they will get much of either throughout the winter. The army is well fed, but city dwellers not working in heavy industries go hungry. Doctors have found that the average adult has lost fifteen pounds in the past year. Long queues of 200 and 300 people form outside the stores in the small hours of the morning; many are sent home with empty shopping bags after waiting for ten hours and longer. When ordinary people manage to get hold of a piece of bread, they often wolf it at once in the streets. At receptions for foreigners even high government officials, unable to resist the tempting sight of food, dive into the buffets.

B) The Black Market:

By Joseph Wechsberg "Hunger Strikes Back" from THIS WEEK 2/14/43:

"The Black Markets are everywhere in Europe, from the forests of Norway to the shores of Spain. Four or five big 'trusts' dominate the whole Continental market. Conditions in Spain, where an orange costs \$2, an egg 50 cents, are not fundamentally different from those in Belgium, where the equivalent of \$2.50 is paid for a pint of unwatered milk, \$4 for 2 ounces of butter; or those in Czechoslovakia, where coffee sells for \$50 a pound, a cake of soap for \$5.

"The worst corruption exists in Germany itself. Black markets now exist in every community, and people go there even for their legal rations of sugar, meat, fat, for often they can't obtain them from regular sources..."

By Ralph Forte, UP, "Lunch-With Wines \$60", Jan. 15, 1943 PM:

".... If a young American couple could parachute safely to Paris and remain undetected for 24 hours, they would find nearly all their favorite pre-war restaurants crowded with Germans, French collaborationists, black market operators, artists and many ladies of the evening. Most good, solid French families remain at home. Their ordinary living expenses are prohibitive.

"They would find that in restaurants like the Tour D 'Argent or La Perouse, they could get an excellent lunch with real French wines and liquors for from 2,000 to 3,000 francs. An average French bank clerk or salesman earn 2,000 francs a month.

".....If the wife talked to a housewife, she might get the following black market quotations:

"Beef with bone, 250 francs a kilogram (2.2 pounds); chicken, 300, sugar, 150; potatoes, 15; coal 4; firewood, 1,500 francs a cord; good salad oil, 1,000 francs a liter (slightly more than one quart); gasoline, 70 francs a liter; fuel oil, 200; automobile tires, between 5,000 and 8,000 francs. An ordinary bicycle costs 8,000 francs or more.

C) Lend-Lease:

From The USDA Summary of Feb. 10, 1943 -- 1565-43:

"USDA 1942 FOOD DELIVERIES TO ALLIES. (Feb. 9) The Department of Agriculture reported today that the Food Distribution Administration delivered 5,730,000,000 pounds of food and other agricultural commodities for shipment to the Allies during 1942, making a total of 9,224,000,000 pounds since the beginning of Lend-Lease operations in March 1941. Food deliveries under Lend-Lease in 1942 were less than 6% of the total United States food supply in that year. The beginning of food shipments to Russia during 1942 reflected substantial increases in deliveries of many commodities, particularly meats, fats and oils, and some grain products. Virtually all deliveries in 1941 went to Britain and the British dominions. In 1942 about 76% of the total was for the British, 23% for the Russians, and the remaining amount for Polish, Yugoslavian, and Greek war victims and for French North Africa. In December, for the first time, deliveries to the Russians were greater than those to the British."

USDA Radio Press Release - Jan. 30, 1943:

"The Lend-Lease food program for 1943 will take a bigger share of many....products than it did in 1942....Food shipments to Russia have greatly increased and it is expected that this year more than half of all Lend-Lease food shipments will go to the USSR where millions of the Soviet people are threatened with starvation and the Soviet Army needs food as well as tanks....."

Secretary Wickard's Lend-Lease Testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Feb. 4, 1943:

".....I think I can say quite conservatively that food -- American food -- has already so influenced the course of the war that we are years nearer to final victory today than we would have been if we had not used it very deliberately as a weapon of war. The food which we have shipped under Lend-Lease has been a major factor in keeping the British Isles in the war.

"..... In Russia....It is men -- Russian men -- who are winning the all-important battles there. But if the supplies of American food which are going to those men, fraction though it is of the total supply, were to be cut off tomorrow, they would almost surely have to stop fighting....."

"....For many months, while our own industrial plants were getting geared up, it was British industry, powered by men and women who were eating American food, which did the main job of war production....."

D) Rationing in 1942 and 1943:

Atlanta Journal editorial, "Trend of the Times", January 1943:

"There was a great food rationing in 1930, 1931 and 1932. Nor was food all. Clothing, travel, fuel and even housing were radically 'rationed' as to more than half of us in 1932....."

".....The 1943 rationing tries to treat all alike. Whether rich or poor, we get our one pound of coffee, our

modicum of sugar, our share of gasoline. The rationing of 1932 took all from some, a part from many, nothing from yet more. The many from whom Hoover's rationing took all stood in bread-lines, lived in shacks, wandered the highways for want of aught else to do.

"The rationing of 1932 took from thousands of farmers their farms, from tens of thousands of workers their homes, from widows and orphans their sustenance. Men who had been wealthy were rationed into poverty. Men who had been merely poor were rationed into pauperism. A bitter, bitter, disorderly rationing was that of Herbert Hoover's time. There were starvings, insanities, suicides. The banks were rationed into paralysis. Millions were rationed into rags....."

E) Importance of Food to Us:

By Sandor S. Klein, UP Correspondent, Aboard a New U.S. Battleship at Sea -- The Washington News, February 8, 1943.

"The men of the U.S. Navy are the best fed of any navy in the world", the supply officer told newsmen who are aboard this ship on a gunfire test cruise. "But waste is not tolerated.

".....Here are some food consumption figures for a month (on this one battleship): Beef, 17,000 pounds; pork, 4,5000 pounds; chicken, 2,600 pounds; veal, 5,000 pounds; turkey, 3,900 pounds; bacon, 2,045 pounds; fish (filet) 994 pounds; coffee, 5,383 pounds; sugar, 13,740 pounds; fresh milk, 1,331 gallons; powdered milk, 1,810 pounds; evaporated milk, 8,241 pounds; Irish potatoes, 36,881 pounds; and 321 gallons of catsup.

Release, Office of War Information, February 9, 1943:

"How much is a pound of fat?

"It's the firing of four 37 millimeter anti-aircraft shells when Nazi planes fly over North Africa. It's 1-3/10 pounds of cordite which sends a shell screaming

toward an invasion objective. It's a half pound of dynamite to blow up a bridge to hamper the enemy. It's three cellophane bags to protect the gas masks our soldiers carry. It's 10 rounds from a 50-calibre airplane cannon pointed at a Jap....."

"The Farmer and the Army", speech by Lt. Col. Ward B. Cleaves, USDA State War Board Release, Harrisburg, Pa:

"Two disasters that may lead to surrender or death can befall an American soldier on the battlefield.

"One is an empty gun. The other is an empty mess plate. Without ammunition, he is defenseless. Without food, he is equally defenseless.

".....History is replete with the record of lost battles -- battles lost by starving armies.

"On the battlefield, a soldier must be strong and fit. His body must be like the body of a trained athlete, and if it is, you needn't worry about his morale.

".....The Army relies on farmers for a lot of other things besides food, too. Your soybeans make the glycerine that fires out anti-tank shells. Oil from your castor beans soften the linings of Army shoes. Cotton goes into our liferafts, our raincoats, our explosives and the tires for our jeeps, ambulances and trucks. Wool makes our uniforms. Even in an 80 mm gun mount, there's enough wool to make a woman's skirt. Your peanuts provide cooking oils, thereby releasing other oils for explosives.

F) Importance of Producing for Home Use:

USDA Information for The Press, January 21, 1943 -- 1397-43:

"If the major food needs of our 30 million farm people are taken care of largely with what is produced and preserved on their own farms, a victory boosting avalanche of food could be released for our fighting men, our allies, and our city workers. Already some of the nation's farmers are producing over three-fourths of their own food needs from victory gardens, home slaughtered and cured meats, eggs from home flocks, and milk from the family cow.

".....On the basis of roughly a ton of food consumed by an individual in a year, the nation's 30 million farm people need some 30 million tons of food every year. It would take three million 10-ton trucks or three thousand 10,000-ton ships to transport this vast cargo....."

G) The Nazis Use Food as a Weapon:

"News from Belgium and the Belgian Congo", Feb. 6, 1943,
Belgian Information Center, New York City.

".....The medical personnel and the sanitary installations of the country (Belgium) may be used to their best advantage to fight illness; but one cannot replace beef-steaks by pills and no medical inspection can ever fill an empty stomach....."

Letters from Occupied Belgium- "We Suffer in a Thousand Ways:"

From a Secretary: "The Germans eat like ogres, anything they can lay hands on. So naturally we hide all we can possibly hide. In the early days of the occupation, they emptied the stores. One scarcely ever met a German soldier who did not carry a bulky package under his arm. Now that the stores have nothing more to sell, it is rumored that the Germans have a hand in the bootleg markets."

By Joseph Wechsberg - "Hunger Strikes Back" Feb. 14, 1943, THIS WEEK:

"Around the fashionable Palace Hotel in Brussels, starved Belgian children are sitting on the sidewalks, their bodies shriveled, hunger and apathy in their eyes. Inside the hotel, German army officers and their Belgian quisling-friends are served good meals, complete with meat, fresh vegetables, butter, bread -- even coffee, that unheard of luxury, is not wanting.

"..... When unemployed Czech and French workers refused to accept jobs in German war industries, their families' rationed cards were taken away. After some time they were informed that there was plenty of food in the Rhineland, Silesia, or some other German industrial center.... In many cases, they finally were willing to become slaves. Even heroic men cannot bear to see their beloved ones die of slow, painful starvation."

By Maurice Hindus, Special N.Y. Herald-Tribune Correspondent,
"Nazis Most Hated Foe of Russians", Washington Post, Feb. 9, 1943:

".....Clear cut and systematic, is the policy the Reichswehr pursues in the communities it occupies. The very first thing the German soldiers do is to lay their hands on chickens, geese, ducks. Revolver in hand, they chase after them in the street, in the courtyard, in the barns, shoot them and eat them. Then they gather all the grain and potatoes they can find, also all the livestock.

H) Nazis' Food Situation:

By David Dietz, Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor, "Experts Fear Food Riots in Europe After the War" Feb. 8, 1943, Washington News:

".....The 1942 crops were poor in much of Europe" professor Black (of Harvard U.) states. "The winter was severe, spring late, and summer weather unfavorable in many regions.

"More food suffering is ahead than behind....."

"In Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia the food situation in the first two and a half years of war remained relatively favorable. The situation deteriorated in the spring of 1942 when potato supplies were low and the rations of bread, meat and fats were cut drastically. But food allowances still compare favorably with those of 1917 and 1918, particularly in fats....."

OWI Release, 1042 -- January 1, 1943:

".....Without greatly increased bombing damage or developments which would force Germany to a higher rate of military activity, as in Russia, there is no reason to expect an economic crack-up in Germany this year. The German diet is superior to that of 1917-18 though meat is scarce and fats and oils available are less than half of requirements. The grain crop was better than average and the potato crop may have set a record, permitting a marked increase in the potato ration....."

From-Fortune Magazine, January 1943, "Hunger Spreads Over Europe:"

"As the war enters its fourth winter, the blockade has failed to starve Germany; yet so has Hitler failed to feed Europe by scientific regimentation. Speaking at 1942's harvest thanksgiving rally, Herman Goring, who had promised in 1936 to make Germany blockade-proof, was moved to announce: 'While I do not want to see the populations of occupied countries suffer hunger and privation, I am firmly resolved that if, through enemy measures, privation is unavoidable, it will under no circumstances affect Germany. German workers and German farm laborers will be better fed than any others.....'

"The...war has imposed on the German consumption unit a 30% cut in animal proteins and has reduced fats by one-fourth..... Carbohydrates, which formerly accounted for 50% of the daily calories, now supply 65% or more. The German civilian is still some distance from starvation but he is already the victim of malnutrition, the effects of which, in terms of reduced efficiency and growing fatigue, disease, and death rates, are likely to be felt more and more.

"Food consumption in Italy, France, Belgium, and Finland is down approximately 30 to 40% below pre-war standards; the danger zone has been reached. With official rations ranging around 1,800 calories per consumption unit, these countries are left with just too much to starve on, but with far too little to thrive on. Inasmuch as these nations are important to Hitler as producers of soldiers and munitions, there is proof that not everything in Europe has worked according to Berlin's wishes."

By Joseph Wechsberg, "Hunger Strikes Back", Feb. 14, 1943, THIS WEEK:

"The Nazis misjudged the psychological effects that starvation might have on the subjugated people. The starving nations were not driven into apathy. Their spirit of resistance was not broken. They knew there had been plenty of food before the Germans came and they knew where it was going. Underground leaders began to ask, 'Why shouldn't we beat them with their own weapon?' Late in the fall, food began to vanish from German army trucks during blackouts. Supply trains were detailed and goods disappeared. Sealed freight cars arrived half-empty. Flour sacks for army bakeries contained sand. Mysterious hands put small stones into Knackwurst....."

"The effect of the new sabotage activities on strained Nazi nerves can already be felt. Once the German fondly considered food a 'weapon of subjugation.' Now they are horrified to see food become a 'weapon of sabotage.'

I) Food Will Win the Peace:

By David Dietz, Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor, Washington News
February 8, 1943, "Experts Fear Food Riots in Europe After the War:"

"After the last war, hungry crowds of central Europe wandered about for months, food pillaging and fighting every effort, good or bad, to restore order.

"This time the suffering people must be fed, and the disorderly, irresponsible elements checked. This time the United Nations will not fight a great war wasting millions of lives and then let the very objects for which it was fought melt away like a snowball in the heap of postwar strife....."

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